

This edition of the Phoenix prepared for the parent(s) of:

The Phoenix



Issue 65

The Meadowhead School Newsletter

December 2012

Congratulations to our Sixth Form Students!



For the first time in over 20 years we are able to announce A Level results for our own Sixth Form students.

We are particularly proud of them because the results were fantastic. 85% have passed three or more A levels with an overall pass rate of 99.8% of all A levels taken. Over 80% of the grades were at A* to C.

The majority of the students are now studying for degrees in University with others in training, apprenticeships and employment.

The staff deserve praise for their hard work. Through excellent teaching and individual support they have ensured that their students have been well prepared and given them the best chance to succeed. There have been outstanding results in English Literature, Mathematics, Languages and Geography, though all subjects can report significant successes.

The partnership with Norton College has proved to be a model of good practice with collaboration between staff working to the best advantage of the students in their care.

Well done to everyone concerned. We wish all our students 'Good Luck' in their future career paths.



Mr Fowler



Progress Day 2012

On November 15th, we had another very successful Progress Day. Attendance was well over 90% and parents, pupils and staff were all very positive about the outcomes. 98% of parents found the day to be 'effective', with 97% saying that the information they received on the day was 'most useful'.

99% of parents came out of the day saying that they now know 'how to support their son/daughter with their learning'.

Training to access student information online through the SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) went on all day, with over 400 parents taking advantage of this opportunity. 96% of all parents now say that they will be using the SLG regularly to check on their child's progress.

95% of parents stated that they were happy with the new and extending Sixth Form opportunities being offered by the school.

Mrs Christie

Fundraising

This term we have raised £1,752 for the following charities:

Adopt an Olympian (Rachel Laybourne) - £405



Wear Pink Day - £500



Poppy Day - £222



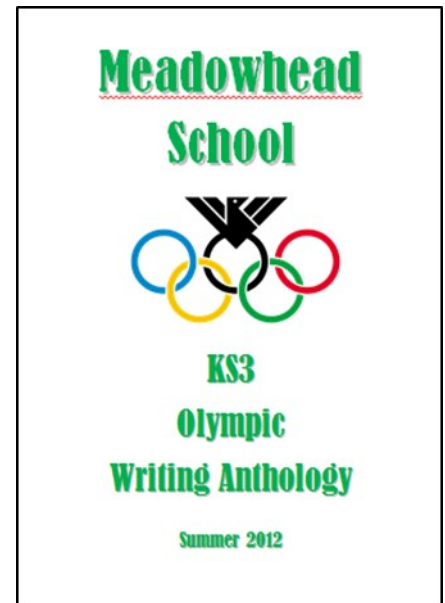
Children In Need - £625



Olympic Writing Anthology

In an English lesson in the Summer term, KS3 pupils explored, discussed and reflected on the Olympic and Paralympic ideals and produced a fantastic range of written work, inspired by the athletes they admire and the values they uphold.

A selection of the poems, articles, stories and descriptions written by Y7, 8 and 9 in their lessons have been published in an anthology, showcasing work from across the entire ability spectrum. Much of the work has also been illustrated by sketches and drawings produced by KS3 pupils in the lessons, representing the spirit of the London 2012 games. Copies of the anthology will be available for pupils to read in independent reading sessions and they will be available to purchase at cost price from the English Office. Below is an example of writing from the anthology. We hope you enjoy reading it.



Ms Hocking

ONE MOMENT IN TIME

READY.

SET.

Silence ...

The silence frightens me. It isn't a nothing-to-say silence; it's a scared silence, anticipating the next few seconds. And it frightens me, knowing that the crowd doesn't have complete faith in me. And if it doesn't have faith in me, how can I have faith in myself?

I must stop thinking, I must clear my head of my thoughts, but there is too much to think about. I can smell the overwhelming fear inside the arena, anticipation eating away at every athlete; nerves consuming us.

Beads of sweat dribble down my temples like snakes silently slithering on sun-soaked skin. I take a quick glance at the spectators and notice my wife and baby daughter staring right back at me, mirroring my smile and this gives me the inspiration, courage and extra burst of energy to win this race.

*I want to make them proud.
I have trained for four years for this moment.
And I'm ready.*

BANG!

Rebecca Samuels 8H





Olympic Football

This year, eight lucky Meadowhead students were able to be part of the Olympic experience. Two groups of students won free tickets for the Olympic ladies football matches at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Tuesday 31st July and Monday 6th August.

On the Tuesday, Mr Hoyland took Jamie Shawcroft, Lewis Brown, Declan Davidson and Matthew Ward to the match between USA



(reigning champions) and North Korea. USA won the match so the following Monday Ms O'Neill and Mr Sockett went to the semi-final with Abigail McGourley, Sophie Fidler and Harley Taylor. Here they watched a very tense and exciting match between USA and Canada. USA went through to the final, beating Canada 4-3 in the last minute of extra time.

Here is what the students had to say:

"I was very excited to find out that I was going to the London 2012 Olympics. We went to watch the women's football, which was USA Vs Korea. It was at my favourite football team's ground, Old Trafford. We travelled to the ground by minibus and it took us an hour and a quarter to get there. The match ended 1 - 0 to USA who went on to win the whole thing. The atmosphere was fantastic with all the crowd joining in with the Mexican wave that we started! I enjoyed the whole day, it was a once in a lifetime experience."

Matthew Ward 8C

"The game was really good to say it went into extra time. Canada scored first then USA and it went like that, it was so great I couldn't ask for anything better. It made me feel really excited and overwhelmed.

In the last 30 seconds USA scored and they won. I thought that shot was amazing. When we got home my mum's boyfriend picked me up and said he had seen on the TV where we had been sitting, which was cool."

Harley Taylor 8E

"I thought it was a great match and very exciting to watch. It made me feel very alive. The journey was fine and the driver was very good. I didn't know that you had to take the lids off your drinks inside the stadium and you have to put your stuff in clear bags because of security. I really enjoyed the night, the atmosphere was brilliant."

Sophie Fidler 8L

Meadowhead Olympians

Meadowhead past students did us proud this summer in their involvement in the 2012 Olympics. We had three ex students who played a very important role representing their city and their country.

Carys Hall (Meadowhead student 2004 - 2009) was chosen to be the last torch bearer and to light the cauldron at the City Hall in Bakers Pool on 25th June 2012. Carys, 19, had given more than 115 hours of voluntary time to support the Sheffield Academy of Young Leaders Project since September 2010 and was nominated and chosen because of this. She was also a volunteer at the Paralympics.



Carys said: "It was an absolutely unbelievable experience. I am the luckiest person in the world to have been given the opportunity to do it".



Alistair Wilson (Meadowhead student 1995 - 2000) represented GB in the Men's Hockey and finished fourth overall. Alistair made his Olympic debut at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.



Rachel Laybourne (Meadowhead student 1993 - 1998) represented GB in the Ladies' Volleyball. She said "What a journey and what an experience! A massive thank you to all the volleyball supporters at Meadowhead School for making it happen. Without the help and support we kindly received from you at school, the GB Women's Volleyball Team would not have made it to London 2012. Your help allowed us to compete, which meant our dream came true. We are Olympians and we have put British Volleyball on the world map."



Mrs Bowker

European Day of Languages

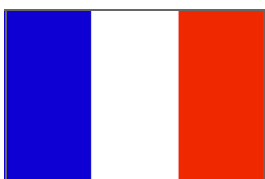
On the 29th September 2012, the Languages Faculty celebrated the European Day of Languages – with a difference! The whole Language Faculty dressed up, taking inspiration from different European countries. The students really enjoyed guessing which countries the staff had dressed up as and there was a real buzz around the Languages Department on that day (not to mention a few giggles as well!).

Many members of staff had also contributed their favourite foreign words, which were displayed around the school. These really added to the success of the day, with students enjoying reading the words (and funny explanations that accompanied them!)

To continue with the theme of the day, students in years 7-9 enjoyed lessons which widened their cultural knowledge of European countries and their languages including activities such as games, songs, quizzes and challenges.

We look forward to repeating the day next year and are already planning our outfits!

Mrs Bramall



Der DDR Kuchen!

On the very last day of term last academic year, Mr Merritt called me into our shared A level German class as several of the students had made a cake for all of us. How lovely!

On closer inspection, I noticed that the cake was no simple, ordinary offering, but an intellectual, culinary masterpiece!



Over the previous several weeks, Mr Merritt and I had been working on a major project which dealt with the issues of the Berlin Wall, the division of Germany and the politics of the Cold War. I had lived in the former East Germany and shared some bizarre stories, and we also looked at the different social and economic pressures that dominated this fascinating era in history. The class had totally absorbed the facts and historical importance of this project and some students went on to do their own research. Sophie Wigfall and Natalie Parker made a hilarious video which copied the East German propaganda news bulletin 'Aktuelle Kamera', whilst Vicky Seville went on to read Anna Funder's 'Stasiland' (a mesmerising account of the role of the secret police in the former East Germany).

We also watched two outstanding films about the former East Germany; one was the famous 'Goodbye Lenin' and the second, which will be an integral part of our A level exam, was the more serious, but brilliant 'the Lives of Others'.

So, back to the cake....

It featured quotes from 'Goodbye Lenin' and potent symbols of the former East Germany, and was topped by a truly remarkable, sugary copy of the Trabant, the famous car from that country (imagine the cars from the Wacky Races, coupled with the sound of a sewing machine!) We were amazed and taken aback by the genius of this cake but more excitement was to follow: when the girls cut into the cake, the sponge base consisted of the colours of the German flag, and it was in the correct horizontal form; brilliant!

We were impressed by the inspiration and innovation of this class and how the whole project had captured the students' imagination; this had to be one of the highlights of last year.

And yes, it was delicious, although it felt rather strange eating a Trabi!

Mrs Kelly



Spanish Summer School Success!

Our Language College opened its doors for a second year to 15 Spanish students aged 11-16 from our partner school of Zaragoza in July for a fortnight of 'Spanish summer school'. The enthusiastic students who were all hosted by Meadowhead Spanish students' families, enrolled on our new and bespoke English Language course in order to improve their English language skills and intercultural understanding about modern British and Sheffield culture!



Both Spanish students and English hosts enjoyed a full programme of cultural enrichment activities including a Sheffield 'town trail', Weston Park Museum, Ice-skating, Bowling, Zumba classes, and day trips at the weekends, including trips to York and an overnight stay with goulish 'Ghost walk' in Whitby!

Spanish students learned a lot of English during their stay, and our students gained some Spanish, and other life skills such as how to be a good host family, good team players and excellent communication skills which should help them when they embark upon future exchange trips. This added to their overall enrichment portfolio as well.

Many thanks to all the Meadowhead tutors who worked hard teaching the 3 groups of Juniors, Seniors, and Adult learners – Ms Legree, Miss Scurfield, Mrs Greaves and Miss Lee.



"Learning and speaking more Spanish and taking the students out in groups led to more fun!"



"I've learnt you can have friends in any part of the world"



"I have enjoyed the whole experience"

Y12 Geography Visit to the Lincolnshire Coast

Early in October, the Year 12 Geography students set out on an adventure to the exotic Lincolnshire coast in order to collect data to prepare them for their January module. The trip got off to a rather wet and windy start with a stop at the salt marshes at Frieston Shore. Here students bravely fought the elements to collect data on plant succession on the salt marsh and the managed realignment project here.



As the day progressed the weather slowly improved and by the time we reached the second stop of the trip the sun had come out and spirits were raised. In groups, students had to complete a series of tasks to investigate the development of Skegness and then using their map skills find their way back to the hotel! Luckily they all made it back in time for the 3 course meal! The evening was spent collating the data and discussing the findings to the rest of the group.

On the second day we woke up to glorious sunshine. After a full cooked breakfast the students were up and raring to go. It was a perfect day to examine the coastal defences at Skegness and the sand dunes in Mablethorpe. Students worked hard to assess the effectiveness of the flood defences and the sand dunes in protecting Skegness and Mablethorpe from the risk of coastal flooding. After a fun packed day it was back on the bus to Sheffield, the adventure over!



Ms Cook

Maths Achievements

Statistics Competition

In the summer term pupils in Y9 took part in a statistics competition when they had to investigate a topic of their choice and then present their findings on a poster. These posters were then sent off and judged with all the other entries from schools around the country.

I am happy to say that some of our Y9 students managed to win first and third prizes in their age category!

A big congratulations goes to:

Grace Eggleshaw 1st
Reanna Heffron 1st
Abi Lee 1st
Betany Morton 1st
Alexandra Gregory 1st
Bethany Jones 1st
George Irons 3rd



The winning posters can be found on the following site:

www.spoc4schools.org

My Money Week Competition

For this competition, pupils had to draw a comic strip which was entitled 'A journey to discover the value of money'. We had almost all of our Y7, Y8 and Y9 pupils enter and **Iona Robertson**, now in 10I, was named as one of the four winners in the secondary school category.

Iona received £30 in gift vouchers, an Art goody bag and £500 for the school.

Iona travelled down to London on Sat 13th October (all expenses paid) to receive her prize.

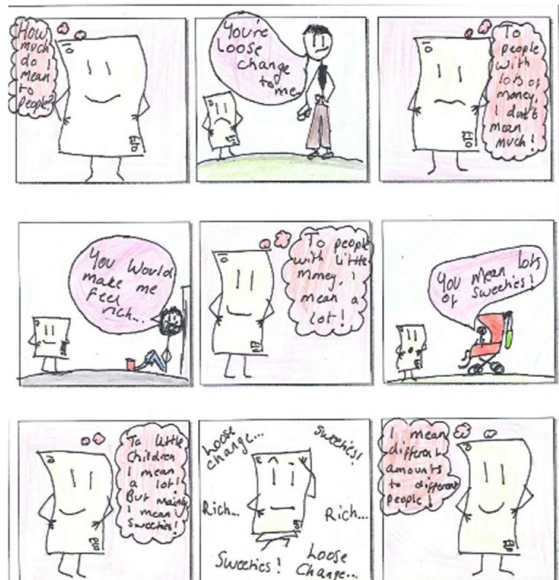
At the exhibition it was announced that Iona was the **overall winner** which meant another £500 for the school and a digital camera for Iona!

This is obviously a fantastic achievement as Iona beat over 6500 other entries from around the country.

Well Done Iona!

Iona's comic strip is shown above and the other winning comic strips can be found on the following link <http://www.pfeg.org/resources/my-money-week>

Iona Robertson, Meadowhead School



Miss Roberts

Lower Meadows “Maths Fun” Project

Our aim within the Trust is to improve numeracy and literacy skills in young people. To support this Meadowhead Community Learning Trust organised a 6 week programme with the pupils and parents of Lower Meadow school. The parents and pupils received a 30 minute workshop each morning when they were provided with a maths resource pack full of games, dice and whiteboards etc. The families then learnt how to use the resource pack to support their children’s learning. Families enjoyed using this resource and were able to take it home at the end of the project and enjoy further “Maths Fun”.



“This has been a very good opportunity to learn with my child.”



“Best parental workshop I’ve ever seen!”

Similar results were shown after the project last year, when Lower Meadows teachers observed greater confidence amongst the children who took part in the “Maths Fun” project. Lets hope that this project will show the same outstanding feedback next year.

Miss Wright

The feedback received from parents was excellent. They said that the experience really helped them to understand the things the children are taught within school. All 24 families wanted to continue with the activities at home after the 6 week project had ended and said the sessions had greatly supported their child in their learning.



“The outstanding parental workshop integrates pupils and parents/carers into learning about mathematics together.”

Lower Meadow Ofsted Report

THE **BIG** CHALLENGE 2013

Over 80 teams from Y8-Y13 submitted applications for this year's city-wide enterprise competition, whereby students from schools and colleges across Sheffield set up a small business on a shoe-string start up loan of £25 and competed against each other. The overall winners of the whole competition win a five day 5* trip to a mystery overseas location – which will be revealed in the New Year!

Our internal Dragons' Den selection panel (comprising of myself, Mr Bragg, Mr Eason, Mrs Simpson and special guest Dragon Mr Bacon – design engineer from Trust partner Gripple Ltd), interviewed 40 budding businesses. We selected our final 22 teams with the best quality product ideas and ambition to go forward and enter the Big Challenge 6.



Our teams have made a flying start, and are all geared up to hit the Christmas markets and fairs across the city to maximise their profit margins at this busy time of year. Some have taken orders and made a profit in the first week of trading and are learning a lot about various aspects of how to run a successful business – teamwork, leadership, communication skills, marketing and advertising, sales and production.

All teams are supported with regular after school Big Challenge workshops led by Mrs Silverwood (Enterprise Manager), Mr Eason (Schools Enterprise Champion) and Business Studies students from Sheffield Hallam Universities Venture Matrix team. In addition, each team has their own staff mentor to help offer advice and guide them through this tricky but rewarding process and the skills learnt will undoubtedly enhance their performance in various other subjects in school.

Watch this space for news of future success for Meadowhead teams as we have high hopes for some of our budding entrepreneurs this year!

Mrs Silverwood



The latest Big Challenge workshop with support from Sheffield Hallam Business Studies students.

This year, Meadowhead Community Learning Trust is launching a cross-community creative writing competition and we would really like as many students and parents to be involved as possible. We will publish an anthology in the summer of 2013 and invite all published writers to a celebration evening on Thursday 9th May.

Who can enter?

Three groups of people can enter:

1. Students at any Meadowhead feeder school can enter in their own dedicated section.
2. Parents, teachers and members of the community
3. Current Meadowhead students

What are the aims?

To increase the number of students who are writing creatively

To show students the importance of technical accuracy through having their texts read

To promote the role of creativity in English, encouraging enjoyment and engagement in the subject.

To develop wider understanding of what being a “successful” writer means

What are the topics?

Entrants can enter work on three themes - “My Sheffield”, “Childhood and School Memories” and “Poetry for Performance”.

What are the key dates?

All work should be submitted by **Friday 15th February** and the celebration evening when published writers would have a chance to read their work is provisionally planned for **Thursday 9th May**.

How do we enter?

Students (or their parents/teachers) will need to type the entries into the entry form and email it to the dedicated email address: everyoneawriter@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk .

What can we win?

The Trust are currently deciding possible prizes to offer but one of the main motivations could be the opportunity to be published in an anthology. We are also investigating community spaces where we could display the work.

How can parents get involved?

We want parents to be involved either by submitting their own entry or a “paired” piece with their child. For example, when you both write about the same event/place. A community entry form for adult entries is also available.

Any questions?

Please email David Sheppard, English Teacher at Meadowhead School – sheppard@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

The Creative Writing Club meets every Thursday after school in E04. So far, Meadowhead's creative writers have had a very successful autumn term. Members of the Y7 and Y8 creative writing club have taken part in sessions facilitated by a student writer from Sheffield Hallam University. Several members of the group also submitted shortlisted entries to Sheffield University's *Festival of the Mind* poetry competition, judged by Simon Armitage. The group also now have launched a page on the school website where they share their latest work. Some examples of students' creative writing are published below and opposite.

Mr Sheppard

Homesick

I miss the warmth.
I miss the smell of the sea.
I miss the animals.
I miss the natural earth.
I miss the spices.
I miss the drum music.
I miss my mother's warm hug.
I miss my old swinging hammock.
I miss the colours.
I miss my family.

I hate the cold weather here.
I hate the smell of pollution.
I hate the empty fields.
I hate the buzzing screens and electricity.
I hate the take-away food.
I hate the heavy metal screeches.
I hate the strangers' cold glare.
I hate waking up remembering where I am.
I hate the grey and black concrete.
I hate being alone.
I want to go back.
I don't like it here.

Heather Burton 8I

A man in black and white

It's not always,
Black and white.



I am a man in black and white.
I cannot speak to you,
I cannot be close to you,
I cannot pick you up when you're down,
When you're happy I'm never around,
I cannot be a shoulder to cry on,
And I cannot wake up from this night-
mare.

But it doesn't mean I don't want to.

I wish I could tell you I love you,
I wish I could hold you close,
I wish I could cheer you up,
I wish I could see your smile again,
I wish I could be someone to rely on,
I wish I could wake up from this night-
mare.

But I can't.
I can see you when you cry,
I can hear you when you're sad,
I can see you growing old with no-one by
your side,
I can see you when you are ill,
And I can hope all I like,

But I'm never going to wake up from this
nightmare.

Dylan Swales 8J

Loss

I woke to the bright sun beaming through the gap in my curtains. It reminded me of the bright lights from that nightclub where I sat alone a few nights ago. Stretching my arm to his side of the bed brought me back to the reality that he's no longer there. All I felt was a lonely feeling in my stomach and the cold emptiness of the made up half of the bed as my arm hit it.

I walked down stairs, nearly falling over boxes still needing to be unpacked in the hall. I remembered back to when we moved in a few weeks ago; the excitement of loading the car with belongings, our whole future ahead of us. In the room stood a tall dark iron fire place against red flock wallpaper and I stared at my reflection in the mirror above. My eyes were no longer bright blue and my skin's peach shine was lost. I was dull and lifeless. I looked down to the picture I had picked up in my cold hands. Me and him sat on a fence kissing; one of the best days of my life. The sun was shining and the water was glistening; the day couldn't have been more perfect.

The soft purring of the cat brought me out of my dream. She was as white as snow and she knew when I needed her. Nothing's been the same since he's been gone. What was once our new cosy home, where we planned to have a family, was now just some big, cold, empty space.

As I pull the blanket over me on the sofa I remember back to when we first met. Back to the night where my life began. Sitting across the table from him with my drink in front of me, the hours felt like minutes. We talked about everything and nothing, words flowing like the wine into our glasses. I woke with a shudder as the blanket hit the floor and the cold emptiness enveloped me once more.

I walk into the kitchen to make a drink and the memory hits me like a lorry. Our first argument happened right here. My skin goes cold at the thought of us both shouting at each other, the hurtful words that were said and the tears that fell. The whistling from the kettle shakes me from my thoughts and back to the here and now.

As I re-enter the room I remember back to the day he told me the news. We had gone for a walk in the nearby fields. The sun was shining but the air was crisp. Suddenly just like the black cloud that appeared above us my world went dark. I was going to lose something so dear to me. My cup crashed to the floor as the smell and sound of hospitals and waiting rooms swamped over me, machines beeping and doctors running. Then the deafening silence, as like my coffee, my hopes, dreams and future were no more.

Samantha Machin 11G



Future Ambitions – AUTUMN 2012



We at Meadowhead School have one sole purpose – to provide young people with the opportunities to pursue their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We pride ourselves on a rich and diverse curriculum presenting pupils pathways that will enable them to one day access a bright and fulfilling future.

As we are all too aware the economy is constantly changing and we want to help prepare our pupils even further by giving them opportunities to experience the real world of work.

Thornbridge Residential – July 2012

11 pupils, 3 sixth formers, 1 teaching assistant and 7 members of teaching staff spent 2 nights camping at Thornbridge on the annual rewards trip offered to all Foundation Learning pupils. It was a great success and the students were exceptional in their attitude and behaviour conquering their fears and developing team building skills. Plans are already afoot for next year.



I learned to get over my fear of heights and challenge myself to try things I wouldn't normally get to do. I had an amazing time and I will never forget it.

Mduduzi Nkala

“
”



Meadowhead Community Learning Trust

Extending Business Links

Mechan, a local engineering firm, successfully appointed two of our students to join the company. They advertised for a fabrication apprentice and a business administration apprentice and we were delighted to say that both positions were filled by Meadowhead students.

Justin Salisbury – Managing director of Cathelco of Chesterfield not only successfully placed 4 of our students on Work Experience but also gave the 4 young men the opportunity to meet with HRH Prince Andrew where at some length we discussed the importance of companies like Cathelco supporting their local schools. Since the event Justin Salisbury has accepted an invitation to join the Trust and we are looking forward to his input and inauguration at the AGM in the near future.



(Pictured left to right) - Justin Salisbury, HRH Prince Andrew, Tom Mulcrone, Tristan McDonald, Tom Owen, Gareth Davies and Mr Cocken



Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE INFORMATION EVENING – 20TH September 2012

If you missed the event and would like to find out more information regarding Work Experience 2013 please log onto the MLP and look for Work Related Learning > Work Experience 2013.

DEADLINE for finding own placement is before CHRISTMAS!

Y10 Work Experience – July 2012

All attending pupils in Y10 successfully secured and completed work experience placements this year after a rigorous marketing campaign and great perseverance from Bev Simpson. In discussion with business representatives the pupil handbook has been designed to streamline the process making the process clear and straight forward for pupils and employers alike. All pupils who successfully complete work experience are being rewarded with a certificate to evidence their success during this placement. In addition some pupils will be awarded special commendation letters to acknowledge their high degree of success.

Master Cutler's Initiative – Working with the Sheffield Hospital Trust



Meadowhead has been successfully selected to develop new work based learning projects with one of Sheffield's largest employers, Sheffield Hospitals. With a 15,000 strong workforce who recruit huge numbers of post 16 students every year, the potential for Meadowhead school leavers will be enormous. In September a group of 20 pupils were selected as ambassadors to work with the Sheffield Hospitals in order to earn a skills passport that will as a minimum incentive, guarantee them an interview, also definitely guarantee work experience, and has the potential to lead to full time employment later in life.



Former Pupil Alex Gwynne Entrepreneur – AG
Papertoys

Careers Talks

We believe that pupils can be inspired by the right speaker presenting their vocation to a group of pupils. Already this year we have had after school talks delivered in careers in starting your own business, design, sport and computer gaming. If you can spare half an hour and would like to come in and inspire our youngsters about your own career between 3-3.30pm one afternoon please get in touch!

Y11 Post 16 progression



All Y11 pupils have been given support, help and advice in making their choices for progression at the end of KS4. Successful Post 16 events on the 8th and 26th of November have been key in supporting the decision making process for our pupils. All Y11 pupils will be using their personalised login details on UCAS Progress to choose their options for next year. Meadowhead's own 6th form are proud to offer a huge choice of subjects at A-level and together with Sheffield College we believe we can help support all pathways for all pupils into a successful future.

New venture – 'World of Work Week' Can you help?

AND FINALLY... Week commencing Monday 4th February we will be launching our first ever 'World of Work Week' to introduce our younger learners from Y7-Y9 to the world of careers in a variety of sectors, and to introduce the pupils to guest speakers in Assemblies, displays and work based activities in the Rosling over lunchtime/after school. Students will also have lessons dedicated to linking the subjects we teach to the real world of employment. Would you be able to participate? We would love to hear from you. Many thanks,

Mr M Cocken

Associate Assistant Headteacher (Vocational)
cockenm@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

Mrs J Silverwood

Business Development Manager
silverwoodj@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

Mrs B Simpson

Vocational and Work Related Learning Support
simpsonb@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

National Poetry Day 2012

The theme for this was **Stars** and we asked “What is your Star Poem?” – poems about stars in the sky, pop stars or just our favourites! Star poems from staff were displayed in the Rosling for pupils to read and be inspired by. For some staff it was particularly hard to choose just one favourite poem! Those chosen included classics such as:

He Wishes For The Cloths Of Heaven, by WB Yeats “*Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, Enwrought with golden and silver light,*”

The Tyger, By William Blake “*Tyger! Tyger! burning bright- In the forests of the night,*”

The wonderful **Timothy Winters** by Charles Causley “*Timothy Winters comes to school With eyes as wide as a football-pool*”

And the down to earth lament of Pam Ayres: **Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth**
“*Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth, And spotted the dangers beneath*”

SCHOLASTIC

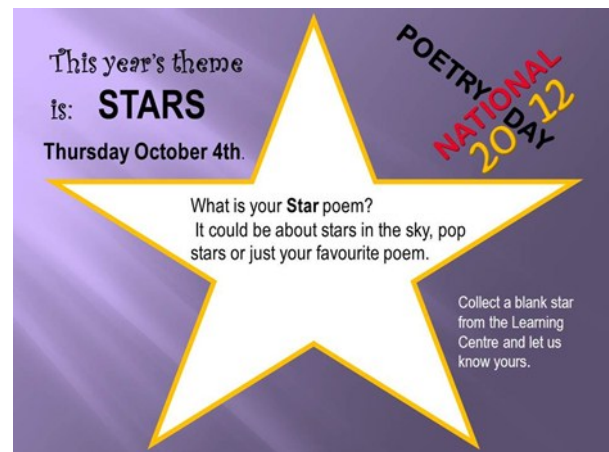
A big ‘Thank You’ to all of you who have bought books from the Scholastic C2C Leaflets. These are given to all Y7 and Y8 pupils every half term. Spares are available in the Learning Centre for other pupils who want one.

They bring great books to the pupils’ attention and represent good value for money to encourage reading for pleasure. There is something special about owning your own copy of an enjoyable book! There is no commitment to buy more books from future leaflets and we welcome even the smallest order! We get 20% commission on each order, plus an accumulation of bonus stars.

Last year (Sept 2011-July 2012) we raised **£329.42** which enabled us to get some of the very best brand new fiction into the Learning Centre. Dystopian fiction has been very popular, with books such as *The Hunger Games*, *Matched*, *Gone*, *Divergent* and *Blood Red Road* topping the list of most borrowed. Just as popular is the phenomenal success of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and a good range of other humorous titles such as *The Donut Diaries*, *The World of Norm*, *Gangsta Granny* and *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* amongst the favourites. We have lots more for pupils to borrow!!

We are once again collecting **Box Tops** tokens from packets of Nestlé cereals – please keep cutting out the tokens and bringing them to either the Learning Centre or Finance office. All tokens can be converted into more books for the library.

Mrs Webb



Textile Design

'Artistic Inspiration on Our Doorstep'

Year 12 AS Textile Design students visited Haddon Hall Country Estate in Derbyshire in September as inspiration for our portfolio work. Beautiful weather conditions gave us the opportunity to photograph both the house and gardens and we all returned to school inspired. We are developing our ideas into textile vessels, and manipulated fabric fashion and interior design outcomes. We hope to display our work at Haddon Hall itself as well as at our end of course exhibition in May 2013.



Maddie Brunt Y12

'Project Runway 2012'

Our third 'Project Runway' fashion show took place in July to showcase fashion creations designed and made by Y9 Textile Design students. Our task was to work in pairs to design and make a garment reconstructed from a man's shirt. We were given the choice of pale, mid and dark blue shirts and had to barter for sections of other shades in order to make our creations unique. One of the pair had to model their garment and prizes and certificates were awarded. The majority of us are now following a GCSE Textile Design course.

Jorja Holmes Y10



Mr McKeown and Brogan Coldwell



Divine Djondo

Sims Learning Gateway

PARENTS!

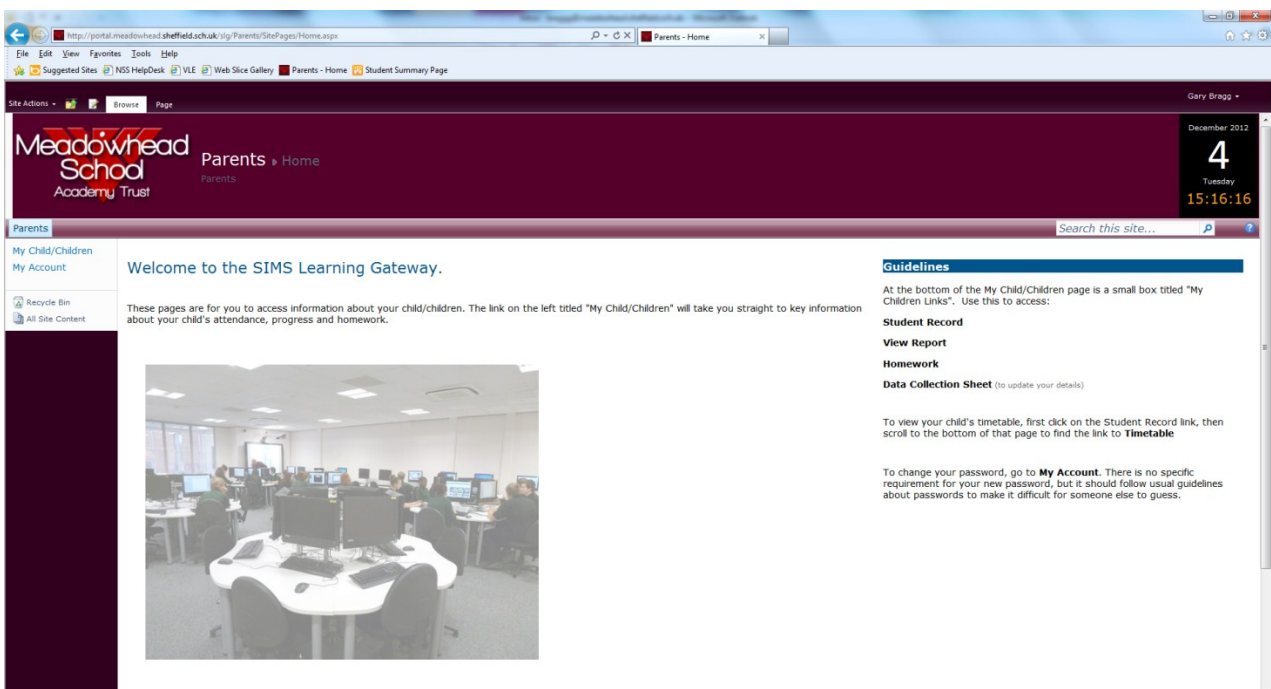
Did you know you can now log onto the Sims Learning Gateway (SLG) to find out lots of information about your son/ daughter including

- Attendance
- Homework
- Behaviour
- Achievement
- School Reports

And other useful information.

If you haven't already logged onto the school's SLG please email

slg@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk



Mr Bragg

Health and Social Care Reach Out into the Community

The Health and Social Care classes have been visiting White Willows residential home in Jordanthorpe, as part of their oral communication practical assessment. The Y11s were the first to go last term and organised different activities, e.g. nail painting, bingo and arm chair aerobics. In their own time, the girls baked cakes with which they greeted the residents. They went down a treat! Paige Green and Megan Hearson were able to help 91 year old Iris (pictured below) search the internet for a memorial bench for her best friend who had died recently. That afternoon Iris found the perfect bench for her friend and couldn't thank the girls enough for their help and patience. This was just one of the outstanding contributions witnessed that day.

A fantastic afternoon was had by all pupils, residents and care workers.



The Y10 Health and Social Care class also went to White Willows in October and really enjoyed the experience. Some of the activities they did included bingo, chess, making tea and coffee for the residents, talking to the people who live there and visiting the elderly who find it hard to get out of their homes.

We found that the elderly people really enjoyed having us there, as they liked to be able to talk to somebody different. We both found the experience enjoyable because we felt we were making a contribution to make the lives of the residents there more pleasurable and worthwhile. It made a change for them to communicate with young people. We would love to go back again.

Abbie Grimes and Amy Ball

The staff at White Willows were so impressed by the girls and their organisation that they have invited them back, and said they would love to arrange some Work Experience for them. A massive WELL DONE to those involved on both days and we look forward to more work within the community.

Miss Denton

Sport

Fitness Suite



The summer Olympics certainly seems to have had an effect on Meadowhead students, especially since the fitness suite began opening on four nights of the week. Fitness Instructors Mr McKeown, Mr Jones, Mr Needham & Mr Affleck have been joined by Sixth Form BTEC Sport students to offer an exercise programme to suit all. They have seen numbers pouring in on a Tuesday & Wednesday and are regularly at capacity. Miss Dunbar's girls' only club on a Thursday and Mr Hill's Y10, Y11 & P16 club on a Friday have also been attracting large numbers. If you wish to be certain of a place in the fitness suite come and reserve your spot by pre-booking in the PE office. A special mention must be given to Joe Povey in Y11 who is an outstanding role model offering advice and guidance to younger students.



Mr Clarke

Basketball

Meadowhead's Monday Basketball club has taken off with a bang. Around 30 students attend every week, boys and girls from all years. There are specialist coaches there to help you improve so if you wish to try it out come along Mondays 3-4pm, £1 per session.



Girls Under 15 Football

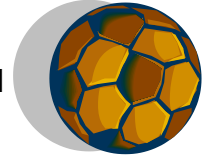
The Under 15 girls football team are through to Round 4 of the National Cup competition. They have beaten teams such as, Wingfield (3-2), St Wilfred's (3-2).

This team are also through to the next round of the South Yorkshire competition. They were runners up last year and will be looking to improve on this and win this year!! They have scored 20 goals in their past four matches!



Y11 Boys Football

The Y11 boys football team are through to the the last 32 of the National Schools Cup and are also in the Semi Final of the South Yorkshire Cup.



Captain Ryan Leaper commented; “This team has more ups and downs than Sheff United, more hairstyles than Lady Gaga and more egos than Man City. Yet when we all turn up with the right attitude we can’t half play!”

Hockey

Last year was very successful for the members of Meadowhead Hockey Club, thanks to the talented and enthusiastic squad. Although all players distinguished themselves, particularly notable was the sharp shooting of top scorer Tom Russell, the acrobatics of star keeper Scott Shooter, the defensive solidity provided by Will Butcher and Feroz Khan and the industry and artistry of midfield dynamos Jake Rodgers and Player of the Season Scott Vardy.

The momentum has only increased this year, with numbers at weekly training (Tuesday 3-4pm on the astro – open to boys and girls of all years) swelling and with arrangements in place to play in a number of tournaments and friendly matches. U14 boys have already participated in one tournament, finishing a creditable joint second with one win and one draw. See below for Blake Clover’s match report.

Meadowhead’s success clearly inspired the GB Olympic Hockey Squad in the summer, with the men’s team (featuring former Meadowhead student Ali Wilson) finishing fourth and the women’s team going one better and winning the bronze medal. Any student inspired either by their fellow students or by their Olympic counterparts, or simply fancies playing one of the fastest, most skilful and most enjoyable sports around, should come along on a Tuesday afternoon and get involved!

Mr Sheppard and Mr Beigel



The U14 boys’ hockey team entered the Sheffield tournament for the first time this year. We played two games. We lost the first to Birkdale 4-0 and then drew 0-0 with King Ecgbert School. Considering this was the first time we have ever played together in a tournament this was a good result.

Our goalkeeper William Boot had a very good performance, stopping many shots. However, credit must go to our Captain, Kaden Nunn who was amazing in midfield making lots of runs up front and doing some great defending, contributing to Kaden being awarded Man of the Match.

Well done to everyone in the team.

Blake Clover Y9

Y8 Football - Unbeaten!

The Y8 football team have started this season how they finished the last!! The team is still unbeaten and looking good in all competitions. They are through to round 4 of the National Cup having not been drawn at home yet. Being crowned South Yorkshire Champions last year has made us this season's team to beat, but the team has fared well so far, a win against Balby Carr will see us through to the quarter final. The Sheffield League and Cup competitions are also underway and the lads have put in some great performances with the 3-1 win against Westfield being the stand out result.



There have been many outstanding performances so far this season but a special mention should go to Louis Hutchinson who has recently broken into the team and has had a fantastic impact scoring some key goals none more so than the 2 goals in the National Cup win.

Well done to all the boys, keep up the hard work and stick together!!

Y9 Football

The Y9 team are still unbeaten in South Yorkshire since joining Meadowhead at the start of Y7. The team is through to the quarter final of the Sheffield Cup, have still won every league game that they have ever played, and will be in the quarter final of the South Yorkshire Schools Cup, should they beat Wickersley School next week.

I would love to say it has been a perfect start to the season, but getting knocked out of the National Cup in the second round has come as a blow to us all. We were quarter finalists last year and we all believed we could go further this time around. We have to give credit to Trent Valley, they are a fantastic team, it was like Man United and Chelsea drawing each other in the 3rd round of the FA Cup. Our boy's gave their all and were 2-1 up with 8 minutes to go, and with a little bit of luck it could have easily gone the other way!

This team has been set the challenge of becoming the first ever year group to win the South Yorkshire Schools Cup in all 5 consecutive school years. We have a fantastic squad of players, with an unbelievable amount of talent, but the thing that makes me most proud of this team is the commitment, work rate and togetherness that they demonstrate both on and off a football pitch. If the boys stick together and keep believing then there is no competition that they aren't capable of winning.

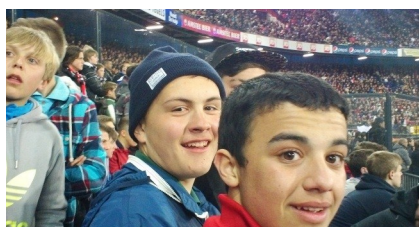


Mr Allen

Feyenoord Football Tour 2012

This year's trip to Feyenoord was the third trip that we have arranged and, for a number of reasons, this one was without doubt the best yet.

The coaching that the players received was absolutely fantastic. The four coaches who were placed in charge of our school had over 800 appearances in the Dutch Eredivisie. This coaching team was led by Ben Wijnstekers; Ben was a defender born on 31st August 1955, making 352 appearances for Feyenoord over a 13 year spell at the club. Ben also played 36 times for his country, more times than Jack Charlton played for England in his entire career, and more than Glen Johnson has currently played for England. Not only were the students coached by Ben who imparted some of his wonderful knowledge of the sport, but they got to play and train alongside an ex-International star. Ben wanted me to relay how impressed he was with both the attitude and the standard of play that he witnessed. Ben said that Meadowhead was one of the best English schools he had ever coached in terms of footballing ability.



The Feyenoord Game was a highlight for both myself, the rest of the staff and the students. The De Kuip stadium had 50,000 passionate fans crammed inside and if I am honest, I was panicking about how the boys would react, but the behaviour and mature attitude demonstrated by all was absolutely outstanding.

We played 5 fixtures throughout the tour, winning 4 and losing just one. The passion, work rate and professionalism displayed by the students was simply a joy to watch. Along with the playing skills, football is a sport which requires hard work, dedication, concentration, teamwork, passion and a sense of humour but most importantly, it is a sport that should be fun and enjoyable - this trip certainly met that criteria.

To sum up, the way that the students represented the school throughout the 5 days was fantastic. From the coach, to the ferry, to the training fields, to the hotel both at meal times and in the evening, even travelling home when we had nothing to threaten the lads with if they got it wrong, they were truly brilliant and we could not have been more proud of them.

Thank you for making the 18 months of planning worthwhile. A big thank you to the staff who supported me on the trip - Mr Clark, Mr Taylor, Mr Furness and Mr Beigal.



Mr Allen

South Yorkshire Champions!

South Yorkshire Rugby Cup Final vs. Hayfield

After the disappointment of losing out in a place in the Yorkshire Cup Final after we were beaten by Ilkey, we wanted to leave Meadowhead with winning a trophy. The game was played in horrible conditions, wind, rain and the cold. The first half was a scrappy affair with both sides finding it hard to get to grips with the conditions with many knock ons and handling errors resulting in quite a few scrums. We took the lead through a well worked backs move ending with Alistair MacDonald gliding over to put the first points on the board. The pitch gradually got worse and worse but we managed to keep the heat on the opposition and after a lucky deflection off Lee's head the ball ended up in Chris Pond's hands and once again Alistair slid over and with the conversion the scores were 14-0. Hayfield managed to get 3 points from a penalty after poor discipline from us. The first half ended with the scores at 14-3 and we were in full control.

The second half started with us getting straight into Hayfield's half after a well-judged kick off from Tom Edwards. By now we were used to the conditions and we were pressing hard for another try. After a cheeky break from the back of a scrum by scrum half Liam Grocutt we won the ball in a promising position and started a pick and go from the back of a ruck ending in a try from Charlie Hawkins. This resulted in the score being 19-3 after Charlie failed to add the extra 2 points from the conversion.

The rest of the game was played in Hayfield's half with another two tries from Joe Farrell and Alistair MacDonald which were both the result of great runs. Both were converted to update the score to 33-3. With time running out we were pushed back into our half as Hayfield had a final charge at trying to salvage something from the game. After a quick break from Louis Kelley and the backs we quickly got into the Hayfield 22 and after a few forward phases Charlie Hawkins emerged with the ball and gifted Drubo Tarafdar the try to wrap up the match. After the conversion the score ended at 40-3 in favour of us. We were South Yorkshire Champions and this was therefore a fine way to end five years of great Rugby at Meadowhead School. We thoroughly deserved the win. It was a great way to end the season and fitting way to celebrate the last time we played together.

Well done lads!

Tries: Alistair MacDonald 3, Charlie Hawkins 1, Drubo Tarafdar 1 Joe Farrell 1.

Conversions: Charlie Hawkins 5/6



“Why should I choose Meadowhead?”



It's the time of year when Y11s are making crucial decisions, and asking themselves some very important questions. What are the right subjects for me? Should I follow an academic or vocational route? And most importantly, where should I go? We are confident that Meadowhead's Post 16 provision is the right choice for our students.

Transition event: Manchester visit

All prospective Meadowhead 6th Form students will be invited on a visit to Manchester and Salford, along with our current Y12s. It will be a chance to experience the culture, history and shopping opportunities of England's third city.

It will also be an opportunity to mix with the students and find out all of the things you've been dying to know.

With a range of subjects, extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities, our Sixth Form caters to a wide variety of needs. Plus, we understand that students' opinions are most important, so if there's anything we've missed, tell us and we'll do our best to change it!

Enrichment & Extra-Curricular

It's not only the academic side which offers a huge range of opportunities: Meadowhead students have been all around Europe and beyond, as well as contributing to the life of the school through peer teaching schemes, sports leaders coaching and charity events. Opportunities include:

The Morocco Expedition (Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains)

Legends Across Europe project (Finland and Spain)

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award (camping in Scotland)



Course Choices

Meadowhead offers a wide variety of subjects (25+) so you won't be short of choices. Talk to any of the Post 16 team, your LM, subject teachers, current Y12s and 13s, and find out their views on which courses suit you best.

6th Form Successes

Last year's Y13s did extremely well, recording a 99.8% pass rate.

Students followed a variety of pathways, including employment, apprenticeships and further education, but many have gone on to Universities including:

University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam
Nottingham
Leeds
York
Derby
Leicester
De Montford
Manchester Met
Brighton
Bangor

Subjects studied include:

English
History
Physics
Animal Biology
Psychology
ICT
Nuclear Technology
Economics
Nursing
Geography
Biochemistry
Zoology
Criminology
Primary Education
Business
Digital Media
Broadcast Journalism
Marketing
Sport



Faith in Leadership



In September, three Sixth Form students from Meadowhead and two from Sheffield College accepted the opportunity to participate in the Faith in Leadership course in London. This course is aimed at developing students' skills in team-building, public speaking and people management.

My whole experience of this course was fantastic. The aim of the course was that, by the end, we would each be able to make a speech to VIPs and community faith leaders in London. Our only remit was that it had to be something that we were passionate about, and that could inspire passion in others. I chose to talk about charities.

We were given just three weeks to prepare for these speeches, which did not feel very long at all. However, our course mentors helped us a lot. We were taught how to stand, and how to speak properly. The mentors also worked to boost our self-esteem and make us believe that we could do it!

At the end of the three weeks we travelled to London and presented our speeches. It was amazing to know that important adults really wanted to listen to what we had to say. At the end, we received a standing ovation and I know that this made us all feel amazing and so proud of ourselves! The Faith in Leadership course has given me so much more confidence. I have already used the skills that I learnt to help me in a successful job interview, and I would love to participate in something similar again!



Bethany Reed 12D

When I first agreed to do the Faith in Leadership scheme, I wasn't too sure what it was all about. But when I met everyone, I felt comfortable and I knew that I was going to have fun getting to know the other people on the scheme and the team leaders.

I had never written a speech before so I didn't know what content to have in it or even what to write about. In the end, I decided to do it about poverty – something that I have been passionate about for some years now.

Writing the speech wasn't the difficult part. The difficult part was actually performing the speech in a pretty snazzy building in central London. But, luckily, going through and being taught techniques of how to present a good speech helped me greatly.

Being able to have such an opportunity has improved me in so many ways. It's helped me understand how to present a speech in the future. It has also helped me to be more informed about quite a few different charities by listening to Kyle's and Beth's speeches. However, I would say that the most major, but basic way it has improved me, is with confidence. I am now a pretty confident person and no longer as timid as I used to be.

I would say that if anyone gets the chance to do it, they should. It has been such a privilege for me to do.

Michael Waters 12B

Sixth Form Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

So then, let's begin. We had a seven day trip in Scotland which included a four day expedition with 4 students from Sheffield College.

We set out as seven and returned as eight... Our mission was to save Private John (a piece of wood we adopted on route!).

So an hour in we came across the abandoned soldier, who Joe carried through the wind, the rain and sheep. At the end of the day, everything was gravy, or beef stew at least!



On day two we had a dilemma...

Despite a much awaited ferry journey, Private John was getting tired, and it was no surprise because we had managed to walk 4km in the wrong direction... no thanks to Stevan... *cough*. Luckily a friendly Scotsman, with his fiery hair, showed us the way and we managed to get him to his bed for the night.

Full of jelly and with some enthusiasm we continued with day 3...

Many a tree later, a difficult decision was made... Up the hill or not up the hill? That was the question! So after crawling up a hill that turned out to be the wrong way, we had a lovely lunch with a view of Ben and his brother Glen. We also enjoyed the last of our Jaffa Cakes.

On the last day we got quite wet...

After a night of torrential rain and bare* midges (yes midges AND rain) we had to cross some fast flowing rivers.

One river down. Wet feet. Sad faces. Two rivers down. Even wetter feet. Grumpy faces.

*many

We were then left with no option; we had to cross a monster of a river. About twenty feet across and about four feet deep, it dampened more than our trousers!



We squelched our way to the end point which, after our hopes

being dashed several times, really was the end. If we weren't all so tired and beaten we would have cheered. As it was we just collapsed in a group hug and then onto the floor, to be collected by the minibus and taken back to sunny Sheffield.



An amazing adventure, if a little muddy!

Leanne Yates, Molly Dowling and Stevan Parkin

Philosophy Trip to London

The trip to London was a trip I'm sure none of us will forget. From the train journeys to talks, and subways to shopping, the trip definitely put a smile on everyone's faces. The day started off early at the train station, Mr Lawrenson there to greet us all, along with Mr Healey who tagged along with the Philosophy Crew. Everyone arrived and Jamie started off the laughs with his Starbucks run for the train journey, even though he did get my order wrong!

After the four hour train journey filled with card games, YouTube videos, lots of loud music and talking, we had finally arrived in London or as some may say... "LAAAHNDANNNN BABY". The brisk walk and tube journey took us to our destination for the morning, the Philosophy and Ethics Lectures.

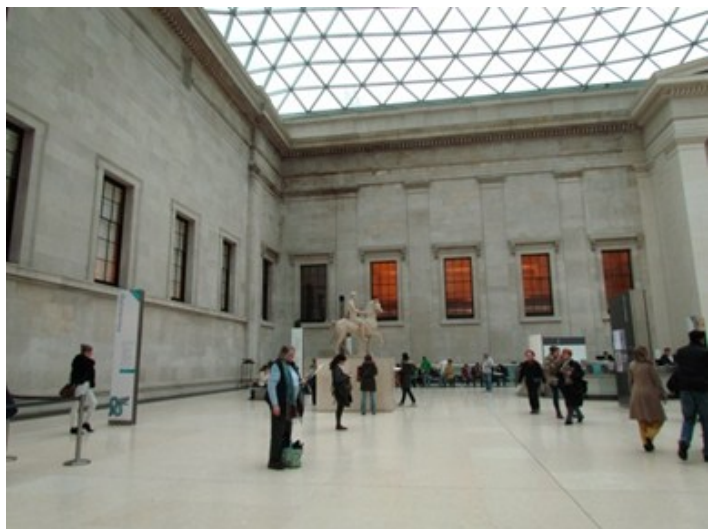
The first lecture we had was really interesting as it was all about Philosophy and all the exam techniques we needed to sit the exam. We all definitely came out of that lecture with at least one thing that we had learnt. – DON'T EAT A HEAVY MEAL BEFORE AN EXAM.

The short break between lectures left us rushing to Subway and Tesco to get snacks before the second lecture started. The next lecture we went to was all on Ethics and helped us all with a few last minute facts. After the second lecture had finished, it was back on the Tube and towards the British Museum. Mr Lawrenson had got us all raring and ready to go at the thought of a treasure hunt round the Museum. As we entered the grounds of the British Museum, we all got given lists of what we had to find round the museum and before we knew it, we were off searching like Indiana Jones in the Temple of Doom. The museum was filled with artefacts from all around the world and it really did make you feel like the Indiana Jones of London. The list consisted of small statues of cows to marble busts of old men.

After we had completed the treasure hunt, it was free time. We managed to find little shops that sold English flags on everything, and when I say everything, I mean everything. They had mugs and handkerchiefs alongside wooden spoons with the Queen's face on. A few of the students found a backstreet Pancake House and had amazing crêpes, which really topped off the day.

The walk back to the tube station was a time to reminisce over the days events or for some, to nip off to Sainsbury's, but we won't mention that again. We got to the train station and decided to get on an earlier train, which did mean that we had to stand all the way home. Yes, that's right, four hours on a train, STANDING. The train journey seemed to fly by and before we all knew it, we were back in Sheffield after a long but very enjoyable day. Thank you Mr Lawrenson for allowing us to be let loose in London, we all enjoyed it so much and we are sure you did too!

Bea Evans Y13



A Beginners' Guide to Cambridge University

I was very excited to be picked to have the opportunity of spending a few days at Cambridge University reading Maths (being a Mathmo as they are known). Cambridge is divided into a number of colleges and I stayed in Emmanuel (Emma), 'The Friendly College'. I had a wonderful time at Cambridge and it has inspired me to apply to University so that I can enjoy the academic, sporting and student life for myself. Here are my top five experiences of entering the world of Oxbridge.

Living in a Sett and visiting the Plodge

Cambridge students don't live in Halls of Residence. Instead they share a sett – a bit like a badger. My sett consisted of six bedrooms and one bathroom. You pick up your key for your 'sett' at the Parter's Lodge or 'Plodge'. This was an experience in itself.



Lectures

These were very different from the interactive lessons that we have in school. You sit in a tiered room and listen to your lecturer for an hour. These people are the top experts in their field; they may have even written the textbook that you use in school.

Rowing

After the Olympics, I was curious to see what the sport of rowing was all about, so when given the chance to have a go, I wasn't going to turn it down. We first of all practised on the machines to get the technique correct, but then it was out to the water to work up a sweat, despite the freezing weather. You need to be tough for this sport and I loved it.



Debate

Cambridge University is really famous for its debates and I was lucky enough to attend one. Many of the speakers are well-known politicians or celebrities. I just missed Katie Price. Instead, I listened to Ken Livingstone, former Mayor of London, argue for the proposition 'Class rules Britain'. To show which side you agree with, you choose a door to leave by.

Formal dinner

These are occasions when the students put on their gowns and sit down to a three course, silver service dinner. I was given one of the gowns to wear and I felt like Harry Potter. Formal dinners are used to celebrate birthdays or perhaps sporting achievements.

Meadowhead in Morocco?



Yes, that's right, Morocco.

In July, I followed seven intrepid sixth form students to Morocco on Meadowhead's first ever expedition to North Africa.

Below are some of the encounters and experiences we had during the 8 day trip. A fantastic time was had by all and all the students would thoroughly recommend this unusual trip to anyone wanting an adventure.



Premiership football as a tool to teach English!



Getting to know the locals.

Already plans for Morocco 2014 are underway and will be available for students who are currently in Y11 and Y12. Watch out for information and you too could be heading to Africa with Meadowhead School!



The team successfully cleaned a huge water tank of mud and rocks to improve the water quality for a mountain village.

Mr Barnett